

Rocky Hill Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting 12/8/09
Location – Borough Hall, Rocky Hill

Members in attendance: Susan Fisher, VMD, Mary Germain, Ed.D, APRN-BC, FNAP, Lisbeth Haines, MD, Beverly Poelstra, MD

Also present: Linda Goldman, John Horensky, Benjamin Strong.

Excused: Margaret Querec, MSN RN

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Haines at 4:37 pm, prior notice having been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231.

2. Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of 11/10/09 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Germain and seconded by Dr. Poelstra, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Report of the SCDOH Liaison

Dr. Haines expressed her appreciation for the relatively smooth transition we have experienced since Somerset County assumed responsibility for health services in Rocky Hill, after a rewarding 17 year relationship with South Brunswick Health Department.

Mr. Strong discussed the monthly report for November. Licensing applications for food establishments were delayed in getting mailed due to the change over of health services to the county and went out approximately December 1. After establishments are registered, they need to get an inspection before they can renew their licenses. Mr. Strong will coordinate with inspectors. The institutions will not be penalized for late filing, due to the fact that the delay was the health department's responsibility. Mr. Horensky will inform us when the new deadline is.

Ms. Dawn Prandi will follow up the issue of lead paint around windows in the nursery school. She will review and talk to board at a later time on this matter. The State DEP will perform inspections.

H1N1 flu – Dr. Haines expressed disappointment about not being informed when a unilateral decision was made to have Rocky Hill residents attend the Franklin clinic for H1N1 immunizations. Dr Haines was not involved in this decision. Mr Horensky admitted this was an oversight and efforts will be made to improve communication in the future. While it was our intention to hold a clinic in Rocky Hill, our facilities are limited. The vaccine cannot be resident restricted.

More clinics are scheduled for Franklin Middle School 12/9/09, North Plainfield 12/12/09 and several upcoming at Montgomery High School. Scheduling can be done through internet or by phone. Currently limited to high risk groups. Not permitted to open access to vaccine to general public until CDC gives approval.

4. Old Business

Municipal Alliance --Dr. Poelstra attended the most recent meeting of the Municipal Alliance. A very successful retreat was held at the Elks Club with various community leaders in an effort to bring leaders together, identify needs, help people connect to share resources and coordinate services.

Communication -- Dr. Fisher reported that there is a glitch with the website, which has been frozen. She is working on this issue.

Pet Survey – not performed due to lack of availability of personnel.

5. New Business

Personnel --Dr. Poelstra's term expires at the end of the year, and she has agreed to continue as a Board of Health member and Vice President.

Dr. Mark Pausch, a newly elected councilman and molecular biologist, expressed an interest in becoming council liaison to the BOH replacing Ms. Goldman, however he cannot make the current meeting schedule. Due to conflicts with other proposed meeting times, we will continue to meet at the same time and location with the invaluable Ms. Goldman continuing as our council liaison.

Communications/Website -- Dr. Fisher is interested in a backup webmaster. She provided software for local resident, Megan Corlis, to become familiar with it. Netfirms host no longer uses the software, but they will support it. A serial number is required to be able to load. Dr. Fisher will send a practice file and meet with Ms. Corlis at a later date.

Flu Clinics --A resident was disturbed that Rocky Hill residents who did not have Medicare were being charged \$25 at the recent Seasonal flu clinic. This factor was built in to our contract with South Brunswick but was an oversight with the new SCDOH contract. Now that the issue has been brought to light, the cost will be built in to next year's contract. Mr. Horensky will see that the administration fee will be included in future agreements. A total of 62 people, mostly Rocky Hill residents, attended the flu clinic. The cost of the VNA was covered by the Medicare reimbursement amount. The vaccine costs approximately \$10.

Contract for Health Services -- Our current contracted amount with SCDOH ends December 31, 2009, although the actual contract extends another year. Rocky Hill budget figures are due January 15th. New contract amount will be determined by Mr. Horensky by January 31, but should only be a nominal amount so this should not significantly impact the borough budget.

H1N1-- Mr. Horensky gave an update on H1N1. Cases are waning across the area. Small doses of vaccine available initially were given to private practitioners and hospitals. Not enough doses were available to hold a clinic. Priority groups to receive initial doses of vaccine. There have been 13 deaths attributed to H1N1 since 9/1/09 and a total of 18 deaths in the spring.

Mr. Horensky discussed difficulties of trying to schedule a clinic in Rocky Hill. Issues included lack of appropriate venue, spotty vaccine supply, second injection necessary for children less than 10 yrs. Using a private facility requires a memorandum of understanding and obtaining a county certificate of insurance. Dr. Haines will approach the owners of Princeton Business Park to determine if they would be amenable to holding a clinic in a vacant warehouse. To date, vaccine clinics have been scheduled for EMS providers and guards in correctional facilities. As of next week local police officers and then fire fighters will become eligible.

6. Next meeting
January 12, 2010.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm after a motion by Dr. Fisher which was seconded by Dr. Poelstra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A Poelstra MD